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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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March 6, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR MELVIN LEVITSKY  
Executive Secretary  
Department of State

COLONEL JAMES F. LEMON  
Executive Secretary  
Department of Defense

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[Redacted]  
Executive Secretary  
Central Intelligence Agency

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[Redacted]  
Chief of Staff  
National Security Agency

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SUBJECT: Records in Custody of the National Security Council

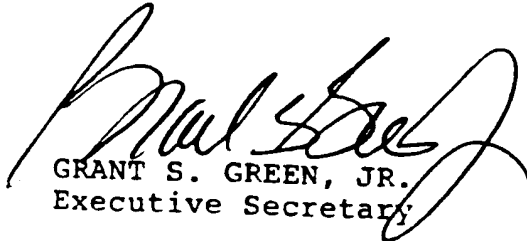
As you know, the National Security Council, as directed by the President, has been endeavoring to cooperate fully and promptly with the Select Committees of the House and Senate as they pursue their inquiries into the Iran/contra matter. Paul Stevens, Legal Adviser to the National Security Council, has been working closely with the staff of the Special Counsellor to the President, Ambassador David Abshire, and that of the Counsel to the President, Peter Wallison, to facilitate the Committees' access to relevant materials in the custody of the NSC.

The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs has requested that I contact you for purposes of convening, under Mr. Stevens, an interagency working group to support this process at the NSC. The purpose of this group would be to review all materials in the NSC's custody deemed relevant to the Committee's inquiries and responsive to their requests, as from time to time communicated to the White House, prior to such materials actually being made available to the Congress. The object of this review would be twofold: first, insofar as such materials are subject to classification under Executive Order 12356, to help assure that they are so classified, and marked; and second, to identify those documents or portions thereof, if any, that contain classified information of so sensitive a nature as to suggest the need for development of special arrangements for congressional access. Ambassador Abshire's office, in consultation with the White House Counsel and the NSC, will be responsible for establishing arrangements of this sort, to the extent they prove necessary or desirable.

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We are aware that an informal group of this sort has been convened on an ad hoc basis to review some of those materials already provided to the Committees. The range and sensitivity of the additional materials potentially involved, as well as the need to assure a prompt response to the Committees' requests, justify the establishment of a more formal review process.

This is to request that you nominate a member of the staff of your Office of Legal Adviser or General Counsel to serve in such capacity and who can be available, if necessary, on short notice. Mr. Stevens would like to schedule a brief organizational meeting of this group as soon as possible, and we therefore would appreciate your prompt reply. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

  
GRANT S. GREEN, JR.  
Executive Secretary

cc:

Amb. David Abshire  
Charles Brower  
Alan Raul  
Brenda Reger